

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of State Parks
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

October 26, 2007

Board of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i

**SUBJECT: Selection of Projects for Federal Grant Awards through the Land and Water
Conservation Fund Program for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007**

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) is a Federal grant program administered by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) to expand outdoor recreation opportunities. These Federal funds are made available to the county and state park agencies for park acquisition, new park construction and rehabilitation of existing park facilities. The federal funds must be matched with State funds, County funds, or in-kind services. The Division of State Parks takes the lead in notifying the county parks and recreation departments of the availability of funds, accepting applications, and making a preliminary selection of projects for the grant awards. The Board approves this selection of projects as a means of soliciting public comment in the selection process.

In order to qualify to receive these Federal funds, Hawai'i must prepare a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every 5 years. The SCORP update in 2003 inventoried the state's recreational resources, including parks, boat ramps and small harbors, hunting areas, trails, and other recreational facilities. The 2003 SCORP update also identified the recreational demands and priorities for the next 5-year period based on consultation with government agencies and input from public meetings. Projects for grant awards are rated on their ability to meet the state's recreational demands and priorities as identified in the SCORP.

A required project for the Hawai'i's current apportionment of LWCF grant funds is the update of the 2003 SCORP in 2008. State CIP funds totaling \$180,000 have been released by the Governor to conduct this update of recreational demands, issues, and proposed actions. The Department, through the Division of State Parks has requested an additional \$70,000 from NPS through the LWCF Program for a project total of \$250,000. The SCORP update will be conducted through a consultant services planning contract administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

For Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007, Hawai'i's apportionment of LWCF grant funds is \$295,549 each year for a total of \$591,098. In addition, two projects from prior fiscal years will be cancelled after September 30, 2007 because other federal grant funds were used for the park acquisition projects and LWCF funds cannot be used with other federal funds for a project. These two projects are the acquisition of Pūpūkea-Paumalū by the State of Hawai'i (\$688,891) and the acquisition of Honu'apo by the County of Hawai'i (\$267,632). This brings the total federal grant funds available for award to \$1,547,621.

The projects for which applications have been received are:

- 15-00156 SCORP Update
Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources
Amount Requested: \$70,000
SCORP Needs & Issues: Planning required to identify outdoor recreation needs and issues, as well as develop a plan of action to meet the demands and address the issues.
Comments: State match available; SCORP update required by NPS to qualify for continued receipt of LWCF grant funds.
- 15-00157 Acquisition at Lapakahi State Historical Park, North Kohala, Hawai'i Island
Applicant: Department of Land and Natural Resources
Amount Requested: \$800,000
Project Description: Purchase of a 17-acre parcel along the shoreline that is surrounded on 3 sides by Lapakahi SHP. This parcel contains significant archaeological sites related to the larger park complex, is contiguous with the coastal boundaries of the Lapakahi Marine Life Conservation District, and encompasses the trail remnant associated with the Ala Kahakai Trail system. Estimated value is \$2.3 million.
SCORP Needs & Issues: This project provides increased public access to the shoreline for ocean recreation, promotes the coastal trail system for hiking, and maintains views and open space along this coastline.
Comments: An application is being submitted for \$1,500,000 from the State's Legacy Lands Conservation Fund to serve as a match for the LWCF funds. An appraisal for the property has not been conducted.
- 15-00158 Halona Blowhole Lookout Improvements, Koko Head Regional Park, O'ahu
Applicant: City and County of Honolulu, Department of Parks and Recreation
Amount Requested: \$700,000
Project Description: Halona Blowhole is a major tourist stop along the southeast shore of O'ahu. To renovate the 50-year old facility and improve public safety, a construction project totaling \$1.45 million is scheduled to begin in 2008.
SCORP Needs & Issues: This project provides a safe and well-maintained recreational area for both residents and visitors.
Comments: City originally submitted project for FY06 funding.
- 15-00159 Isaac Hale Beach Park, Phase II Improvements, Puna, Hawai'i Island
Applicant: County of Hawai'i, Department of Parks and Recreation
Amount Requested: \$300,000
Project Description: Parks improvements along the coastal section of the park and adjacent to the boat ramp, including boat turnaround area, parking area, picnic tables and pavilion, outdoor showers, accessible walkways, and landscaping.

SCORP Needs & Issues: This project expands ocean recreation with the construction of support facilities for parking, picnicking, and access.

Comments: Phase I Improvements have been supported by LWCF grant 15-00148. Together, these projects reflect a \$4 million investment by the County in this park.

The project requests total \$1,870,000, which is \$322,379 more than the amount available. State Parks evaluated the four (4) project applications and all the projects meet the demands and priorities outlined in Hawai'i's 2003 SCORP document.

RECOMMENDATION:

All the project applications for FY06 and FY07 meet Hawai'i's recreational demands and priorities as identified in the 2003 SCORP. Together, the four projects total \$1,870,000, which is more than the \$1,547,621 available. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board approve the selection of the four projects to receive LWCF grant funds, subject to negotiation with the applicants on the award amount and final approval by the National Park Service.

1. \$70,000 grant to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the SCORP Update.
2. \$300,000 grant to the County of Hawai'i for improvements at Isaac Hale Beach Park.
3. \$700,000 or a lesser amount grant to the City and County of Honolulu for improvements at Halona Blowhole Lookout.
4. \$800,000 or a lesser amount grant to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks for the acquisition of 17 acres for Lapakahi State Historical Park.

Respectfully submitted,



DANIEL S. QUINN
State Parks Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN, Interim Chairperson